

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SPM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 121257Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2163

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJ: FRELIMO ATTACKS ALDEAMENTO

1. IN FIRST SIGNIFICANT NEWS ON INSURGENCY TO APPEAR FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, MOZAMBIQUE PRESS OF OCTOBER 8 REPORTED ATTACK BY FRELIMO, IN EARLY OCTOBER, AGAINST ALDEAMENTO OF MUCHENA (15 DEGREES 41' S., 33 DEGREES 48' E.) IN NORTHERN TETE DISTRICT. REPORTEDLY VILLAGE WAS SURROUNDED BY GROUP OF ABOUT 50 GUERRILLAS, WHO OPENED FIRE ON IT WITH 82 MM. MORTARS, BAZOOKAS, AND MACHINEGUNS, CAUSING POPULATION TO FLEE INTO WOODS. THOSE WHO SURVIVED WERE REPORTEDLY SLAUGHTERED, AND GUERRILLAS DESTROYED FIFTY HUTS AND 20 GRANARIES. NINE VILLAGERS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING FOUR WOMEN AND FOUR SMALL CHILDREN, AND ANOTHER 15 WERE WOUNDED. THE PRESS ACCOUNT LISTS NAMES AND AGES OF THE NINE KILLED, AND DESCRIBES INCIDENT AS "ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL AMONG THE RECENT ATTACKS LAUNCHED BY FRELIMO AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS".

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WM MEANWHILE, ON OCTOBER 9, TWO WOMEN WERE REPORTED IN PRESS TO HAVE COMPLAINED TO AUTHORITIES THAT FRELIMO WAS MISTREATING GROUP OF VILLAGERS "KEPT BY FORCE UNDER ENEMY CONTROL" SOMEWHERE NORTH OF MACOSSA (17 DEGREES 54' S, 33 DEGREES 56' E) IN VILA PEREIRA DISTRICT. SAME REPORT QUOTED "CIRCULAR LETTER" SIGNED BY ONE LEONARDO JACOB NJAWALE AND CAPTURED IN NORTHERN CABO DELGADO DISTRICT, SAYING, INTER ALIA, "IN THIS YEAR OF 1973 WE WANT THIS PEOPLE NOT TO EAT SO THAT WE CAN CREATE SERIOUS CONTRADICTIONS OF HUNGER ... CARRY OUT SUBVERSIVE SABOTAGE ACTIONS SO THAT THE HUNGER CONDITIONS CREATED WILL BE LIKE A COMBAT".

3. COMMENT: DIRECTORIES LIST MUCHENGA AS ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT SETTLEMENTS IN SPARSELY POPULATED MACANGA CONCELHO, WITH ONE LISTED GENERAL STORE. IT IS ABOUT 60 KILOMETERS NORTH OF TETE CITY, AND IS RELATIVELY DISTANT FROM MALAWI OR ZAMBIA FRONTIERS. ATTACK SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A VERY SUBSTANTIAL ONE FOR TETE DISTRICT, WHERE FRELIMO USUALLY OPERATES IN SMALL GROUPS. IN LISTING NAMES AND AGES OF VICTIMS, PRESS REPORT SEEMS TO BE SEEKING TO COUNTER ACCUSATIONS ALLEGED PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES AGAINST VILLAGERS PHRASED IN SIMILAR TERMS, AND LIKE MOST OF THE VERY SPARSE PRESS REPORTS ON THE WAR THAT HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT MONTHS IT STRESSES THEME THAT IT IS FRELIMO WHICH MISTREATING AND KILLING INNOCENT AFRICAN CIVILIANS.

4. LOCAL PRESS HAS RECENTLY FEATURED, WITH CONSIDERABLE GLEE, FACT THAT LONDON PAPERS AFTER PUBLICIZING ALLEGED PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES, ARE NOW AT LAST PRINTING STORIES ABOUT FRELIMO ATTACKS ON AFRICAN CIVILIANS.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MASSACRES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731036/aaaabade.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRELIMO ATTACKS ALDEAMENTO
TAGS: PINS, MZ, PO, FRELIMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005